

REMARKS

The Office Action indicates that the Oath or Declaration is defective for not identifying the foreign application from which priority is claimed. Attached hereto are Substitute Declarations of the inventor and assignee that identify the foreign application from which priority is claimed.


The Office Action notes that the original ribboned copy of the patent has not been surrendered. The original ribboned copy of the patent was surrendered with co-pending application 09/594,152. Attached hereto is a copy of the Surrender of Original Patent, filed on January 24, 2001 with acknowledgement of receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office mailroom dated January 30, 2001.

Applicant notes that claims 14-16 are not rejected in view of any prior art, but merely rejected based upon the defective Oath or Declaration identified above. Applicant respectfully requests, that in view of the Substitute Declarations of the inventor and assignee submitted herewith, that the rejection of claims 14-16 be withdrawn.

The Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 24, 2001 contained a typographical error in that reference was made to application Serial No. 09/594,192 as containing related prior art and for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. The correct reference is to Serial No. 09/594,152, filed on June 12, 2000. Submitted herewith is a Substitute Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully request that the references cited therein be considered by the Examiner.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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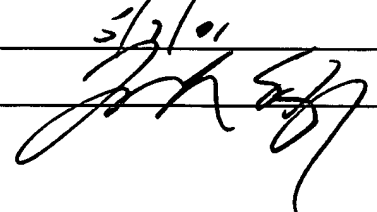
JLE/ap
Dated: May 7, 2001

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

5/21/01





CONVERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 1: : This is a Reissue Divisional Application of Serial No. 09/594,152, filed June 12, 2000, which is a Reissue of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,172, issued August 4, 1998. Co-pending Application Serial Nos. 09/631,540 filed August 3, 2000, 09/632,139, filed August 3, 2000, and 09/817,470 filed March 26, 2001 are Reissue Divisional Applications of Serial No. 09/594,152, filed June 12, 2000.